

Gene Okerlund, Serious Voice of Pro Wrestling, Is Dead at 76

By Daniel E. Slotnik

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Gene Okerlund, who as a ringside interviewer and commentator served for decades as a straight man to the outsize personalities who suffuse the world of professional wrestling, has died. He was 76.

His death was announced in a post on the WWE's website, which did not say where and when he died or the cause of death.

Mr. Okerlund, who was nicknamed Mean Gene by the wrestler (and future governor of Minnesota) Jesse Ventura, was a mild-mannered figure, especially by pro-wrestling standards. He often appeared on the air in elegant attire to conduct interviews with intensely muscled, scantily clad wrestlers like Macho Man Randy Savage, the Ultimate Warrior, Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan.

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